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Children of William Faris of Annapolis

By

Lockwood Barr

New York
1940

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Barr, Lockwood,
The children of William Faris of Annapolis.
New York, [1940?]
[20] p. typescript 29 cm.

1.Faris fam.(Wm.Faris,1728-1804)

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The Children of
William Faris of Annapolis

by Lockwood Barr[3]

William Faris of Annapolis was the outstanding silversmith and clockmaker in Maryland during the last half of the 18th Century. Born in London in 1728 he was brought to the Colonies when six months old by his mother, Mrs. Abigail Tudor. They settled in Philadelphia where William Faris served his apprenticeship. In 1757 he located in Annapolis and there died in 1804. The story of this unique old master craftsman, as recorded in the private and official documents he left behind him, was presented in the December 1941 issue of the Maryland Historical Society Quarterly. That biography was confined to the old man himself -- although it did include a resume of his family.

Shakespeare created his characters by what he made them do; what he made them say; and, most important, what he made others say about them. The poem entitled "The Will of William Faris", written by Charlotte Hesselius the 18-year old friend of Faris' daughters, who knew the inside story of the family, told tales out of school. The relations between William Faris and his offsprings....his critical attitude towards his sons with whom he constantly quarreled....the reaction of his children to their parent....all of which Faris faithfully recorded day by day in his Diary ....sheds light not only on this strange and fascinating old man, but also upon these children, from an angle not to be gained from any other source.

Note 1. The corrected version of "The Will of William Faris" by Charlotte Hesselius was included in the biographical sketch of William Faris in the book "Maryland Silversmiths" by Pleasants and Sill.

Note 2. Extracts from the Diary of William Faris were published in the Maryland Historical Society Quarterly, September 1933 issue. The original document is owned by Sumner Parker, Baltimore.

Note 3. Lockwood Barr married Berenice Owens, who is a descendant of William Faris through Ann Faris and Capt. William Pitt.

Pelham Manor N.Y.

William Faris Sr married Priscilla Woodward on 29 March 1761. She was ~~then~~ twenty-two years old, being born 27 February 1739, while he was then thirty-three years old. She was the daughter of Abraham Woodward and Priscilla Ruley of Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

The nine children of William and Priscilla (Woodward) Faris, all born in Annapolis, follow:

1. A son unnamed	b. 3 Jan. 1762	d. an infant	
2. William Faris Jr	b. 5 Dec. 1762	[illegible]	m. Kesiah Hoskins
3. Charles Faris	b. 29 Sep. 1764	d. 1 Sep. 1800	bachelor
4. Rebecca Faris	b. 29 Nov. 1765	d. 14 Oct. 1768	~~spinster~~ infant
5. Hyram Faris	b. 18 Jan. 1769	d. 30 Aug. 1800	bachelor
6. St. John Faris	b. 27 Dec. 1770	d. 27 July 1796	bachelor
7. Ann Faris	b. 9 May o1773	d. 17 Mch. 1860	m. Capt. Wm. Pitt
8. Abigail Faris	b. 10 Mch. 1775	m. 21 Jan. 1802	~~to~~ Capt. Arch. Kerre
9. Rebecca Faris	b. 11 Dec. 1778	d. 19 Aug. 1800	spinster

There are many families which trace their descent from William Faris (Sr.) of Annapolis. They must have come from (7) Ann who married Capt. William Pitt, or from (2) William Faris, Jr., as the other children who arrived at maturity died without descendants -- so far as can be ascertained.

(4) Rebecca (b. 1766) died an infant. The name was preserved by naming the last child Rebecca (b. 1778) who did not marry. (6) St. John Faris as a lad "went down to the sea in ship", became a captain of a trans-atlantic liner at twenty-one years of age, and died at sea of fever aged twenty-six years, a bachelor.

The epidemic of yellow fever in the summer of 1800 "caused the people of Annapolis and Baltimore to die like flies" -- and William Faris lost three grown children in two weeks: (9) Rebecca died 19th August; (5) Hyram died 30th August; and (3) Charles died 1st September. None of these three children had married. Nothing has been found on descendants of (8) Abigail Faris and Capt. Archibald Kerre of Baltimore.

(7) ANN FARIS

(Mrs. William Pitt)

Ann Faris was born 9 May 1773 in Annapolis. She died 17 March 1860, aged 67 years, in Baltimore. Nancy, as her father called her in his Diary, was the apple of his eye. He adored her. Ann married Capt. William Pitt on 7 July 1796. He was born 14 January 1768 and died 29 December 1848 aged 80 years. He was the son of Capt. John Pitt of Baltimore, a prosperous and successful ship-owner and sea captain, and followed in his father's footsteps, inheriting the business. Capt. William Pitt was a widower having first married Hannah Williams on 29 January 1795, but she died a bride of six or seven months.

Capt. Pitt was one of the many sea captains who stopped with William Faris at his Inn, Annapolis and in the Diary there are many references to his arrivals and departures, some of which follow:

1793. June 4. Capt. William Pitt left heare this day on his Voiage in his Pilot Boat - loaded with Flowers, (FLOUR) for the West Indies.

1796. June 18. In the Evening Mr. Pitt came up from Virginia with his two new boats.

1796. June 19. This morning Mr. Pitt Brackfasted with us and after Brackfast asked mine and Mrs. Faris's consent for our daughter Nancey. Neither of us had any objection to him therefore I suppose it will not be long now before they are married.

1796. July 7. This Evening Wm. Pitt was married to my Daughter Nancy by Parson Higgenbottom. (And subsequently in the Diary with monotonous regularity the old Man records that "...my Daughter Nancy to bed with a child...")

The closest girlhood friend of Ann was Charlotte Hesselius, who, written in 1790 in her poem "The Will of William Faris", records this thumbnail sketch of Ann.

"....To Nancy, the darling of me and my wife,
I give and bequeath the spinnet for life
Once I thought she would play with the help of a Master
But it grieves me to say, she learned not a bit faster.
Harry Woodcock I trusted to teach her to play
But I soon found twas money and time thrown away.
So she did what was right, made me save all my pelf
And picked out a tune here and there by herself..."

References to Ann before and after her marriage are from the Diary of William Faris: [illegible]

1793. Sep. 13. Mr. Griffin began to teach Hyram, Nancy & Abee French.

1793. Dec. 13. Dr. Shoff gave me a receipt to prepare a medican for my Daughter Nancy who has been out of order for some time.

1794. July 21. This morning Mrs. Hamilton, my Daughter Nancy, Betsey and Rebecca Gassaway, sett out about 9oclock on the packett for Baltimore.

1795. July 4. No perading today, everything very ded & dull. Except the Flag being hoisted, etc., and a Ball at night. Nancy's gone to Mrs. Green's to Dress & go to the Ball, but no Ladys went except the 3 Misses Gassoways & 2 Misses Price, so she did not go but came home from Mrs. Green's between 9 & 10 oclock.

1795. Aug. 19. About 11 oclock Nancy came home (from Balt.) and young Mr. Cowman with her. She's very fatt & hearty. In the afternoon she with her brother Charles & sisters went over the Creek to a tea party with Mrs. Kelty & several others.

1795. Nov. 13. My daughter Nancy and Abie gone to spend the Evening at Mr. Charles Maccubin's there is a Party there.

1795. Nov. 24. My daughter Nancey & Abie went to the Colt Ball in M. Whitcrofts Carriage.

1797. May 13. About 1/2 after 6 oclock my Daughter Anne Pitt was brought to bed of a Daughter, a fine child, they are both well & Harty as possible.

1797. June 25. Nancey Pitt's Childe has been very ill, this Evening they had her Privately Baptized by name of Ann Priscilla.

1798. June 11. This morning a letter from my Daughter Pitt dated the 9th whare in she lets us know she is as well as can be expected, she was brought to bed that morning of a Daughter.

1798. July 17. Charles gone to Baltimore town to bring Nancey heare, my Poor Dear little Ann died.

1798. July 19. This morning about 8 oclock my Dear littel Prissila Ann was Buried.

1800. July 12. Mr. & Mrs. Pitt, Rebecca & Little Hannah sett off for Baltimore.

1802. Aug. 8. In the Evening Mr. Viatt Christened Mr. and Mrs. Pitt's two children, a little Girl by the name of Hannah & little Boy by the name William Faris Pitt.

The children of Capt. William Pitt and Ann Faris follow:

1. Priscilla Ann	b. 13 Mch. 1797	d. 17 July 1798
2. Rebecca Maria	b. 7 June 1798	d. 1 Jan. 1834
3. Hannah Williams	b. 16 Jan. 1800	d. 23 July 1837
4. William Faris	b. 11 Dec. 1801	d. 18 Oct. 1821
5. John Charles	b. 2 Aug. 1803	d. 16 June 1876
6. Joseph Henry	b. 12 July 1805	d. 3 Sep. 1822
7. Charles Faris	b. 7 Feb. 1808	d. 8 Apr. 1887
8. Priscilla Eliza	b. 8 Dec. 1809	
9. Eliza	b. 4 July 1812	d. 13 July 1812

(1)Priscilla Ann died an infant; (2) Rebecca Maria in July 1817 married John George Chappell of Baltimore and they had five children. She died 31 January 1834 and John George Chappell married her younger sister (8) Priscilla on 4 September 1834 and they had five children. (3) Hannah Williams married Frederick Littig-Shaffer and they had eight or more children. (7) Charles married Catherine Chappell sister of John George Chappell and they had a number of children. There is no record of the descendants of (4) William, (5) John, and (6) Joseph Pitt, although they are believed to have married and left children.

A portrait of Mrs. Ann (Faris) Pitt with her infant daughter, (3) Hannah Williams, credited to James Peale, is owned by Miss Marian McParlin Abrahams of Baltimore.

About the time of their marriage, Eicholtz painted companion portraits of (2) Rebecca Maria Pitt and John George Chappell. The first is now owned by Mrs. Charles Maxwell of Sioux City, Iowa, and the second by Miss Sallie Chappell of Baltimore.

A portrait of (7) Charles Faris, credited to Rembrandt Peale, is owned by Miss Sophie Pitt, who also owns a portrait of Widow Abigail Faris, the mother of William Faris of Annapolis.

Note: The wife of the compiler of this genealogical data is a descendant of Ann Faris through (2) Rebecca Maria Pitt and John George Chappell. A request for information from any interested descendant, addressed to Lockwood Barr, 20 Beech Tree Lane, Pelham Manor, N.Y., will be promptly answered.

St. John Faris

St. John Faris was born 27 December 1773 in Annapolis. He died a tragic death at sea of Yellow Fever 27 July 1796, aged 23 years, on his vessel the Hebe, of which he was Captain. He did not marry. Unlike his three brothers, St. John took to the sea as a lad and at the age of 21 was an officer and by 23 Captain of vessels in trans-Atlantic service out of Baltimore. ~~He was the son of William Faris the Annapolis silversmith and Priscilla Woodward.~~ William Faris was evidently quite proud of his seafaring son whose comings and goings he recorded faithfully in his Diary. Some of the entries follow:

1793. May 5. A letter from my son Saint. He is well. He left Liverpool the 7th March and arrived at Balt. the 2nd of May (nearly two months) He sent his Mother yarn and Mrs. Stevens silk he carried to be Died.

1793. July 3. David Geddes told me that my son St. John sailed from Balt. 2 July.

1793. Oct. 22. Capt. St. John Faris sett off to go to St. Michels on the Eastern Shore to take Charge of a new Ship (he was 23 years old having been born 1770).

1793. Dec. 2. A fine day. Sett off for Balt. A Bout 3/4 after 9oclock. We had an agreeable passage there was several passengers. Wee arrived to Balt. about or a little after and An's and myself Went to Mr. Specks had a glass of todey each and our supper and went to bed.

1793. Dec. 3. Tuesday morning got up Earley & went down to the Point to see my son St. Brackfasted with him where he boards and after brackfast went to see Capt. Francis De Cross in a large 3 Decked ship called the Gift of God of Bordux but late of St. Domino.

1793. Dec. 5. Brackfasted with Saint at Capt. Travers at his house. Did not get to Annapolis until 11 oclock at night. Kitty Cook was married to Joseph Clopham.

1793. Dec. 21. Hyram sett off to walk to Balt. this morning at 10 oclock to see his brother St. John and to endeavour to stop him from going the Voyage to Amsterdam on acc't of the Algereans.

1793. Dec. 24. Hyram expects to sail to Morroco and intends writing me from the Capes. He laughs about the Algeriens (the Pirates).

1794. July 22. This morning about 8 oclock Saint sett off for Balt. in the Stage in Company with Mr. Angel the Printer -- to take the Snow Commerce as Captain. (Note: James Angell was one of the Proprietors of the Maryland Journal.)

1794. Sep. 4. Received a letter from my son St. who informs me thay are sickeley at Fells Point (Balt.) thay die 10 or 12 of a Day. Mrs. Maggie Ross is Dead. She died the 2nd of Sep.

1794. Oct. 22. Capt. St. John Faris sett off to St. Michels on the Eastern Shore to take charge of his new ship.

1794. Nov. 8. In the evening I received a letter from my son Capt. Faris his ship is called the Hebe.

1795. Jan. 1. Capt. St. John Faris come home from Balt. His ship at anker in the Boy Bound to Croney in Spain then to St. Jubes, from there to Lisbon, then St. Petersburgh in Russia.

1795. Jan. 5. Capt. Faris & Capt. John Rogers took leave of my family and went on board their ship. Both got under way about 2 oclock.

1795. Nov. 20. A letter from Capt. Faris he arrived in Balt. yesterday he had a passage of 60 days from Hamburg to Fells Point (Balt).

1796. Jan. 21. About 10 oclock Capt. St. John Faris went on Board in Capt. Thomas Boat and by 11 oclock was under way bound for Amsterdam.

1796. Aug. 19/ Arrived at New York the Ship Atalanta Capt. Holbrook's Log Book Aug. 5th saw a ship haveing a Signal of Distress, we hoisted out our yawl and went on Bord, she proved to be the Hebe of Baltimore, which sailed from Amsterdam May 7th under command of St. John Faris with 23 passengers bound to Baltimore; when they had been a few weeks at sea a number of them were attacked with a contageous Distemper of which Capt. (St. John) Died in a few Days. At the time we boarded her there were 7 dead, the first and second mate and many passengers confined to their berths and only 3 hands left capable of working the vessel. They had lost by sickness upwards of 100 persons.

1796. Aug. 24. In the Tuesday paper I see a further accot. of my Poor Son (St. John). It's from the same Vessel, Capt. Richard Holbrook who says Capt. Faris was taken sick the 20th of July and Died on the 27th.

In the poem "The Will of William Faris" written 1790 by Charlotte Hesselius, she mentions St. John briefly, thus:

". . .I had always a mind to give them to Saint
(a pair of old silk stockings)
'Till he, like a fool, turned Methodist quaint
I swore at the time he never should have them
And I know Saint would wear, the other would save 'em,
For the reasons here mentioned I leave them to Hy
To wear if he pleases when walking is dry.
To Saint Faris my son who is now on the seas
I will that he has any roots that he please
All my garden utensils: Swift's Polite Conversations
And I wish he'd leave the sea to live with his relations
I know all their minds, and they all love poor Saint.
And his brother had promised to teach him to paint. . ."

Charles Faris

Charles Faris was born 29 September 1764 in Annapolis. He died in Annapolis 1 September 1800 of Yellow Fever, aged 36 years. He was the son of William Faris and Priscilla Woodward. He was not married. Charles Faris served his apprenticeship as a watchmaker, clockmaker and silversmith under his father and for a while lived at home. However, Charles and the Old Man were constantly at odds so that in 1793 he set up shop for himself, [illegible]. He became an outstanding silversmith in his own right and there is an exquisite coffee service by him now in the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

The Diary of William Faris contains many entries relating to "my son Charles", as follows:

1793. Aug. 31. In the afternoon Oliver Weeden put the Window in Mrs. Cater's House for Chas. Faris.

1793. Sep. 3. Oliver Weeden finished the Board and Partition in Charles Shop.

1795. Jan. 15. At Breakfast Charles brought the news of James Shows death. He died yesterday morning of a mortification of the Bowels.

1795. July 12. Charles went to Thos. Woodward and there saw his sisters.

1795. Aug. 19. About 11 oclock Nancy came home and young Mr. Cowman with her. She is very fatt & hearty. In the afternoon her Brother Charles & sisters went over the Creek to a Tea Party with Mrs. Kalty & some others.

1795. Aug. 29. Mr. Sam'l Green & Charles Faris sett off this morning at 4 oclock for Baltimore.

1795. Dec. 7. Charles went to his Shop to Day. He has been ill since 28 Nov.

1795. Dec. 31. Capt. James West is to be married to Miss Peggy Wittacor. Charles is gone to the Wedden. Charles returned about 7 oclock with an account of the Wedden's being broke off account of her sister having a Mulatto or Negro husband - so says Reports.

1796. Jan. 21. About 10 oclock the Roof of Charles Shop took fire. It is supposed it was occasioned by a spark from the Pipe of the Stove. It was put out with very little damage.

1796. Mch. 10. Charles has moved to his new Shop. Negro Charles has been helping him. After dinner he went down for some Bottles he brought home and left them in the Shop. Went off with himself I have not seen him since. (William Faris on March 7 had employed a negro named Charles. The Maryland Journal (Baltimore) 9 November 1778, contained the following advertisement: "To be sold a very likely young negro fellow by trade a silversmith, Jeweler and lapidary; there are few if any better workmen in America. Any person inclined to purchase the said negro, may know further by applying to the Subscriber, living at Annapolis — Wm. Faris.")

1796. May 20. After Brackfast Doct. Ghistin cutt my Son Charles Tongue. Present the Doctor & t young men, Messrs. Brewer & Thomas. It is the second time it has been cut. Doct. Murry cut it before, but did not take it all out. I am in hopes it is all out now.

1797. June 4. Sunday. Since last Wednesday Charles has left off Breakfasting here -- he comes to Dinner and when he comes mumbles out something like, how do you do papa in a manner, that appears to me that he would Rather not speak at all. Today at Diner Charles took it into his Head to get up in a pet without eating his Diner, when he come in he never spoke a word to me -- not I to him.

1797. Sep. 10. Charles Faris come heare this morning and asked me how I did. I Reply'd to him and asked him if he had spoke to his Brother and made up with him. He said he was willing to make up with Hyram if so he would speak to him. I said not till then. He said no. I told him he ought and that I expected that he would, for to my certain knowledge he was very much in the Rong and that he had used Hyram very Ill and that if he did not speake to him, that I would never speake to him more. Hah! says he, I am not the first son you have turned out of Doors and that I had never done anything for him, and it appears to me from his present and former conduct to me for 12 months Past that he has been wanting to quarrel with me. He took up his hat and went off.

1797. Sep. 24. I told Mrs. Faris to tell <u>her</u> son Charles that if he did not comply with My Request that he should not have the Washing done here any longer.

1798. July 17. Charles is gone to Balt. to bring Nancey heare. My Poor Dear little Ann Died July 18. Charles, Nancey Pitt and her littel Stranger Miss Rabacca come heare from Baltimore.

1798. Oct. 14. This morning Mr. Richard Wells Died and between8 & 9 oclock Mrs. Nancy Harwood, Abee, Rebecca & Messrs Reason, Rowles & Charles Faris sett off in Smith's Stage for the Head ot Severen to Wm. Woodward Junr's.

1799. Feb. 23. This afternoon my son Charles & James Warfs were Elected Common Connselmen. Saml Ridout & Clements stood likewise.

1799. Mch. 20. After Brackfast Hyram went to Charles Shop.

1799. Mch. 26. Charles came and helped me today in my garden.

1799. June 5. To Day my son Charles left Boarding at Capt. Thomas and come to live with me at Home.

1799. July 4. In the Evening Charles, Nancy Pitt & Becky went to the Play. Abee not well enough.

1799. Sep. 30. In the Afternoon Charles went over South River to Mr. John Gassoway's Wedden. Capt. Gassoway is to be married to Miss Elizabeth Price. Capt. Gassoway is near 50 & the Miss about 17 or 18.

1799. Oct. 9. Charles has got the young man from Balt. the young mans name is William McFarland (McParlin). (This was McParlin who after the death of Charles worked for William Faris and after the death of William took over his business and became the leading silversmith in Annapolis.)

1800. Jan. 6. Charles has a 12th Night Cake and a large Company at his house this Evening.

1800. Jan. 9. Charles is still Unwell. He took a Pill which Doct. Chisland sent.

1800. Apr. 9. I have been at Charles Shop all Day.

1800. May 12. In the Afternoon Charles & Abee, Marriah & Miss Fanny Jackson come from Balt. in a Stage.

Early in 1800 a plague of fever swept Baltimore and by summer it was an epidemic. Charles Faris had been in Baltimore with his sister Ann who had married Capt. William Pitt and returned home in August quite sick:

1800. Aug. 24. I am very unwell — am afraid Charles is going to be sick.

1800. Aug. 28. Charles is very weak & low this afternoon he got up & walked 3 or 4 steps to a chair & fainted.

1800. Aug. 31. Poor Charles is much worse to Day, so much so that the Docts. has no hopes of his recovery but while thare is life thare is hopes.

1800. Sep. 1. About 2 oclock this morning my son Charles Faris died of Yallow Fever in 36th year of his age.

In the Metropolitan Museum of New York City there are some beautiful specimens of silver by Charles Faris — a coffee service consisting of a tall coffee urn surmounted with a pineapple finial, a creamer and sugar urn to match; and in the Maryland Historical Society Museum, Baltimore, there is a ladle. His touchmark was C^{S} Faris in an elongated oval. Maryland Silversmiths by Pleasants and Sills has quite an account of Charles Faris and pictures of his silver.

(118) William Faris (continued)

Charles Faris died 1 September 1800 and his father William Faris became executor of his estate which amounted to $429.59. William Faris died in 1804 and his wife, Priscilla Woodward, was appointed executrix of the estate of both her husband and her son Charles. Among the clockmaking and silversmith items listed in the inventory of Charles Faris were:

36 oz. 16...12 silver plate	$40.91	1 Large Mahogany glass case	$16.00
1 oz. 14...12 gold	25.30	1 Small box watchmakers material	1.00
1 Set Watchmakers tools	40.00	1 Small box with springs and glasses	2.00
Sundry jewelry	31.33	1 Small box with gold scales and weights	2.00
12 Pair plated Spurs	16.00	1 Grindstone	8.00
2 Tea trays	1.10	1 Timepiece	16.00
100 Bushels charcoal	8.00	1 Gold watch	16.00
16 Walking canes	2.16	5 Silver watches	40.00
3 Pine lathes	6.00		

—•—

Included in his household furniture and personal possessions were the following items:

1 Feather bed and furniture	$32.00	1 Picture of Genl. Washington	$ 3.00
10 Windsor chairs	5.00	1 Picture of Thomas Jefferson	2.00
1 Mahogany desk	12.00	1 Picture, Memory of American Heroes	4.00
1 Large looking glass	8.00	1 Bible	2.00
1 Small looking glass	5.00	85 Vol. Books	11.41
1 Mahogany dining table	3.00	Wearing Apparel	20.00
1 Tent bedstead	8.00		
1 Set tea China	7.00		

—•—

In the "Will of William Faris" written in 1790 by Charlotte Hesselius she takes this shot at Charles:

". . .To my son Charles Faris I have and bequeath
My watch and bird organ, and also I leave
To said son, as he pleases, a black ring or pin
There are two ready made which I am sure would suit him
They're the first that I made, rather clumsily done
But good in all conscience, enough for my son.
The teeth he may have, rather clumsily strung
Every tooth that I've drawn since the time I was young.
Six pair of thread stockings, two cotton, two yarn,
That my wife poor dear woman sat up all night to darn.
These will last him, with care, a very great while
And so money he'll save to make the pot boil. . ."

[illegible]

(118) William Faris (continued)

Charles Faris advertised in the Maryland Gazette, 26 May 1796, as follows:

Charles Faris
Clock and Watchmaker
Annapolis

Has received an assortment of gold and silver warranted watches, gold, gilt and steel watch chains, and Seals, plated Castors, Candlesticks and Salts, with many other articles in his line, which he will sell Low for Cash.

Hyram Faris

Hyram Faris, ~~son of William the Annapolis silversmith~~, was born 18 January 1769. He died 30 August 1800 aged 31. He did not marry. He was brought up in his father's shop as a watch and clockmaker and silversmith, and evidently was a very skilled workman and an artist in his own right. In Maryland Silversmiths by J. Hall Pleasants and Howard Sill~~s~~ is a beautiful design for the dial of a tall clock on which is the name Hyram Faris. He was quite a painter and there is a miniature on ivory executed by Hyram Faris of his brother, Capt. St. John Faris -- the sea captain.

All that is known of Hyram is disclosed in the entries of William Faris in his Diary, some of which are quoted herewith:

1792. Nov. 1. Charles and Hyram began to learn the Short Hand writing with Mr. G. Holland.

1793. Apr. 13. Sunday Hyram walked to Chappel.

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1793. Apr. 16. Hyram was fined at Court 5/ for striking John Bull -- alis Targone.

1793. May 4. This afternoon Hyram sett off for Mr. H. Welsh's.

1793. Sep. 13. Mr. Griffin began teaching Hyram, Nancy and Abbee French.

1793. Dec. 21. Hyram sett off to walk to Balt. this morning at 10 oclock to see his brother Capt. St. John and to Endeavour to stop him from going the Voyage to Amsterdam on acc't of the Algereans (pirates).

1793. Dec. 24. Hyram expects to sail to Morocco and intends writing to me from the Capes. He laughs about the Algereens.

How long Hyram was on that voyage and what he did on the voyage is not recorded.

In the Maryland Gazette issue of 12 September 1793 there appeared the announcement of Hyram Faris, watch and clockmaker, Church Street, Annapolis, in which he informs the public that he had opened a shop next door below Mr. Nicholas Brewer and directly opposite the General Court Office, where he carries on the above business in all the branches and likewise carries on Silversmith and Jewellry business.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(118) William Faris (continued)

1794. Sep. 16. Lieutenant Davidson brought Hyram's substitute (in the militia) and I paid him 35 Dollar.

1795. Nov. 23. This afternoon Hyram showed me a letter wrought by Governor Stone Recommending him to the President requesting he would appoint Hyram an office in the Mareen Service.

1795. Nov. 29. Hyram apply'd to Mr. George Dent & he has given him a letter of Recommendation to the Secretary of War for a Lieutenants Commission in the Mareen Service.

1796. Feb. 11. This evening Miss Nancey Murray is to be married to Mr. John Macon of George Town; there's a Ball at the Ball House this evening & Charles, Hyram, Abee & Rebecca are gone to it. The Girls went in Mrs. Davidson's carriage.

1796. May 2. In the Evening Hyram, Nancy, Abee & Becky gone to a Ball at Warfs Long Room.

1796. May. 28. About 9 oclock Hyram set off for Mr. Linsocoms & about 12 oclock Messrs. Walker, Goldsmith, Cayton & West sett off & about 5 oclock W. Whitcroft set off for Mr. Linsocoms - it's the Old Man's Birth Day thare is to be grate Doings thare this Evening.

1796. June 26. Hyram very poorly. He went down to Doct. Murray's. He was not at home. Mr. Owens sent a Bolus for him to take. (What might have been a Bolus?)

1796. July 28. About 12 oclock Charles, Hyram, Nancy, Abee & Rebecca went over the Creek to the Big Frying Pan to a fish Feast. There was a large company thare & spent the Day very agreeably & in the evening Mr. James Warfs is married to Ellener Brewer.

1796. Dec. 30. Hyram ill. Young Owens called to see him but Doct. Murray never come neare him.

1797. Feb. 12. Hyram went over South River this morning in Company with Capt. McCening in the afternoon John Reegle fell down & had a Fitt in his Yard; in the evening Mrs. Faris, Abee & myself Drank Tea at old Mrs. Witcrofts.

1797. Feb. 16. Hyram went to Wm. Woodwards this morning his son Henry was married yesterday.

1797. Sep. 30. Hyram came home from Balt. he says people ar the Point (Files Point) are very sickeley and a grate many Die. The Doctors have declared it Yellow Feavour, there is 13 or 14 a night Buried.

1799. Mch. 20. After Breakfast, Hyram went down to Charles Shop. (note the two brothers and the old man had for over a year had a 3 cornered fight)

1799. Apr. 2. This afternoon Hyram moved his chest away from my House -- to where I don't know.

1799. Apr. 4. This Morning Hyram came heare to bid the family farewell. He's going to Baltimore. He bid his mother and sisters farewell. He came to me, I asked him if he was going to leave. He answered yes. I then told him he might go where he pleased. I had nothing to say to him. He went off.

1799. Apr. 5. I am informed that Hyram went off for Balt. in some Boat to Day. He has not been near since yesterday morning.

1800. May 11. Hyram came home from Baltimore in the Packett.

1800. May 26. Hyram sett off this morning for Thos. Woodward in Prince George's.

1800. June 6. Between 8 or 9 oclock my ungrateful son Hyram left me to go to Baltimore and I never Expect to see him More.

1800. Aug. 28. Nancy Received a letter from her Brother Hyram dated the 20th. He says that he shall go on Board in 4 or 5 hours the Ship Commerce -- Capt. Thompson to Amsterdam.

(Nothing more is known of Hyram thereafter.)

In her poem "The Will of William Faris" done in 1790 by Charlotte Hesselius, she had this to say about Hyram whom she called Hyam.

". . .All the tools in my shop to Hyam I give
And if he minds work he'll make out to live
My coat which I turned, is a very good brown
And may serve many years to parade in the town
Twill be good as ever if takes my advice
And the buttons of silver will make it look nice
The place in the back which is greased by my club
Will come out if he'd take good care to rub
It with soap and with brush or good spirits of wine
Will freshen the cloth and make it look fine
The Coat he must wear with my corduroy breeches
When Abbey has given them a few odd little stitches
Because he's the favorite of me and his mother
A pair of silk hose I had when a boy
Intend shall be his: 'twill give him much joy
To own these said hose he has begged for so often
But they ne'er shall be his till I am safe in my coffin. . ."

WILLIAM FARIS, JR.

William Faris, Jr. was the young man of mystery in the Faris family. He was born in Annapolis 15 December 1762. He served his apprenticeship, as did two of his brothers after him, in his father's shop and became a skilled and proficient craftsman in his own right. ~~There is circumstantial evidence to indicate that he died 20 August 1829 and this will be set forth subsequently.~~ The date and place of his death have not been found.

Like his brothers, whose quarrels are recorded in great detail by William Faris, Sr. in his Diary, William, Jr. could not live under the same roof with the Old Man and he early left home and set up his own shop. He had an itching foot and spent a large part of his life migrating from place to place.

In the descendants of several of the families which trace their line back to William Faris, Sr., there will be found the tradition that there was a William Faris who served in the Revolution. Being born in 1768 William Faris, Jr. was old enough to have served a brief term towards the close of the war -- but careful search has not uncovered any positive evidence that he did serve.

The first official record of William Faris, Jr. is ~~in 1790~~, when he was twenty-eight years old, and ~~was~~ working in Norfolk, Virginia. That is the reference to him made by Charlotte Hesselius -- the intimate of his sister -- in her poem "The Will of William Faris" which she wrote in 1790.

> "....My Buckels and Cane to my son William I give
> And no more, because he's got substance to live.
> His road I took care in his youth to instruct him
> Tho' I say it myself, a princess might trust him.
> The dog grew ungrateful, set up for himself,
> And at Norfolk, they say, he has plenty of pelf.
> Since he's gone away it will be best for his brothers...."

This raises the question of where he had been living and what he had been doing during the previous five or ten years, or so to have accumulated "plenty of pelf". Search in Norfolk fails to disclose any information upon him.

While William Faris, Sr. was engaged in a large number of activities there is nothing in the official record, except an advertisement in 1792 to indicate that he ever left Annapolis even temporarily to establish even a branch operation. We do know from his newspaper advertisements that in addition to clock and watchmaking, silversmithing, he established in Annapolis a cabinet making business in 1770, and that part of that was frames for pictures, mirrors, etc. There is an advertisement dated 17 September 1793 in the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser by A. W. Dorey, who styles himself an Exchange Broker, offering for sale "a pair of remarkable large and elegant Looking Glasses (new) being just finished by the American Artist Mr. Faris in a masterly manner. The plates are four feet by two feet, very true." That was September 1793.

On 9 November 1792 in the Maryland Journal a William Faris announced "that he has commenced Business in Calvert Street, a few doors below Water Street, and carries on a Looking Glass business in its several branches: VIZ. Silvering and Framing the plates, Carving and gilding the Frames, etc." Note that the location was clearly Baltimore -- not Annapolis.

Now this announcement of 9 November 1792 may have been the venture of William Faris, Jr., but if so, it was short lived, for on 23 December 1792 there is an entry in the Diary of William, Sr. which said in part: "...a letter from my son William in the Havannahs..." Now that entry was made 7 or 8 weeks after the announcement of the opening of the Baltimore factory by a William Faris. It would have required at least that much time or more for William, Jr. to have sailed to the Havannahs, to have written a letter and gotten it back to Annapolis. So that it would appear that this Baltimore operation was something William, Sr. started.

William Faris, Jr. remained "in the Havannahs" for several years as the following entries in the Diary of his father show:

1793. Jan. 7. This evening a Capt. Sinnett come heare and told me he saw my son William in the Havannahs and that he was well and was doing very well. That he had altered a greate deal for the better -- about 2 mos. agol

1793. May 1. Received a letter from my son William dated Havannah, 24 Mch.

1797. Han. 8. In the evening I saw Capt. Farling at Mr. Randals who told me he saw my son at Jackomel in the Island of (illegible). (Note: There is a seaport named Jackmel in Haiti.)

Next William Faris is heard of in 1800, located in Edenton, N. C. How long he had been there is not known. There are these entries in the Diary.

1800. Nov. 3. Received a letter from my son William at Edenton, North Carrolinya, directed to Mr. Pitt.

1801. Feb. 11. This afternoon a young man named Nath'l Smith called heare to let me know he was just from Edenton, North Carolina, that he was Acquainted with my son William, that they Boarded in the same house together, and he tells me that my son has been in Edenton upward of two years past and that he has 40 or 50 watches in his window.

The father lost contact with his son William after ~~that date~~ 1801, for there are no further references to him in the Diary, which ended in 1804 when the old man died.

What do the official records of Edenton, N. C. show? The first official item shows William Faris, Jr. as the witness to a Will: Warbutton, Wm. December Term 1799. Oct. 1, 1799. Wife Suckey Executor. Test. Henry Flury, Douglas Chapman and William Faris.

In the Court House at Edenton is a copy of a marriage bond as follows: 1803. Faris, William, and Kesiah (Hoskins) O'Neill. Dec. 11th. James Cochran signed the bond.

Kesiah Hoskins in 1786 had married Peter O'Neill, who died leaving a Will probated in Chowan County, 19 May 1803, in which are mentioned: Wife, Kesiah; daughters, Katherine and Elender; sons, Charles and Tully. Executors, Wife and William Robert; Testator, James Jones and Edmund Jones.

William Faris, Jr. having been born in 1762 would have been forty-one years old in 1803 when he married Kesiah (Hoskins) O'Neill. After their marriage both William Faris and his wife vanish from the record. Search fails to find their death or any children being born to them.

2707 1